Theological Seminary
Columbia. S. C.
Nov. 25th 1852

To the Members of the Society of Missionary Inquiry of Princeton Theological Seminary. —

Dear Brethren. — It becomes my duty as the Corresponding Secretary of the Society of Missionary Inquiry of our Seminary to open a correspondence with your body and thus participate in those fraternal feelings which should ever characterize the followers of Christ: and especially those, who are selected, by him, from their fellow Christians, to be his ambassadors. Beleiving that much good might result from a mutual exchange of views & feelings, relative to the cause which specially claims our attention, when we convene together in our respective associations: our Society, by a unanimous vote passed a resolution, instructing me to open this correspondence and thus secure, if possible, the desired result. —

Brethren, it is a pleasant task, & praying that a divine blessing may accompany the effort we most cheerfully respond to the call thus imposed upon us. — It appears to us that the effect of such an interchange as we contemplate, will be twofold. First, it may knit us more closely together in Christian affection & cause us to feel that sectional divisions do not sever us in spirit; since we are sons of one Parent, united in one calling, and going we trust to the same blessed home.

Second, it may be eminently instrumental in stirring each other up to love and good works, to more active zeal &

deeper devotion in our Master's cause. Now if it does in any degree inspire within us such feelings & provoke a holy ambition in our bosoms: may we not have reason to bless God. that he put it into our hearts to commune with each other about these sacred things. Ah! are not Christians too lax in the performance of those duties they owe to each other: arising, doubtless, from a neglect of those higher duties they owe to their common God?

But if we are clusters, harvested from terrestrial vine;- if we are united by a saving faith to Christ, will not his cause be dear to our hearts?- will not Jesus be the magnet attracting them?- and will not all their affections gravitate there? We know your response.

Yes, if we would gather balm for a wounded spirit & leave behind us an imperishable name? we must pour blessings round us in a copious stream,- must be active Christians, and many a branch, widening & deepening in its course will mark our influence upon our successors. Do we not desire to cultivate the Missionary Spirit? Thank God we do. Now, shall we not incite each other on to more untiring zeal in this sublime work?- to more fervency of spirit?- and to a closer imitation of our Divine Exemplar? We need encouragement & we believe that by our outward manifestation of it in this way, we shall reciprocally partake of the blessing. We need more of that burning zeal which distinguished the primitive Christian & which consumed him with the fierceness of its flames;- need more of that prophet's spirit, which was kindled by a live coal from off God's holy altar, and caused him instantly to exclaim Lord here am I, send me;- need more of the consecration of Paul; who: the moment, the scales of darkness fell from his eyes, looked abroad upon the world & recognized its most remote regions as the theatre of

his future labors, felt his spirit stirred in him with irresistible desire to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;- in a word, need more of the spirit of him who emptied himself of his divine glory, tabernacled in the flesh, went about doing good & finished his mission upon the cross- died a ransom for us. Brethren, may we not help each other on in the cultivation of this spirit! If any of these things be the legitimate result of a fraternal correspondence, surely it will be no light matter to have this consolation to cheer us on as a dying pillow. And then too, we can learn something of the method by which we conduct our efforts and the spirit manifested among us.-

Our band is small in comparison with yours, but we rejoice in the promise that where "two or three are met together" in God's name, he will be in their midst. We number about thirty: our monthly meetings are well attended & we think with happy results. Would God that we had more of that spirit prevailing among us, which at present characterize our meetings. We hope to be stimulated in this matter by good reports from similar Associations & especially by a more prayerful consideration of God's love to us.

Brethren, we will be most happy to hear from you body at your earliest convenience. In conclusion I may say, that I express the united wish of all our members, when I write the prayer, that the Great Head of the Church may put you into the ministry & give you eminent success therein. Go out into the "highways & hedges," aye, to the darkest corners of earth & pluck gems from thence to adorn the diadem of your dear Redeemer. Heaven prosper you all is the prayer of-

Your brother in the bonds of the Gospel-

William J. McCormick-